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PATENT APPLN. NO. 10/800,913
RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111

PATENT
NON-FINAL

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (canceled)

2. (previously presented) A medical valve, to which a male luer is to be separably connected, comprising:

(a) a housing having a hollow body opened at the top end, wherein the tip of the male luer is to be removably inserted in the housing;

(b) a longitudinal solid spike disposed to extend longitudinally in the housing, the spike except at least the top end portion being formed in a shape approximately tapered upwardly, wherein a groove-shaped fluid transferring passage, which extends the entire longitudinal length of the spike is formed on the outer peripheral surface of the spike, the bottom portion of the fluid transferring passage being connected to a fluid circuit; and

(c) an elastic seal having an elastically deformable tubular shape fitted on the spike to seal the spike, the elastic seal comprising a top end portion having an openable/closable portion to be openably closed over the spike, wherein the elastic seal is elastically deformed to be downwardly compressed by downward pressure due to the tip of the male luer, thereby the openable/closable portion is brought into abutment with the spike,

and is elastically deformed to be opened radially outwardly to be fitted onto the spike, so that the inside of the male luer communicates with the fluid transferring passage of the spike.

3 - 6. (canceled)

7. (previously presented) A medical valve according to claim 2, wherein the spike comprises at least three longitudinally extending fins projecting radially outwardly from the axial portion,

and wherein fluid transferring passages are defined between adjacent ones of the fins and an inner surface of the elastic seal.

8. (previously presented) A medical valve according to claim 7, wherein the fins are circumferentially spaced from one another at equal intervals,

the edge of each of the fins being placed in abutment with the inner surface of the elastic seal.

9. (original) A medical valve according to claim 8, wherein a portion of the elastic seal, which is brought in abutment with the fins, has a cross section of an approximately polygonal shape.

10. (previously presented) A medical valve according to claim 2, wherein the bottom portion of the spike is inserted in and fixed to the housing.

11. (previously presented) A medical valve according to claim 2, wherein the central portion of the bottom surface of the openable/closable portion is made approximately flat and is opposed to the top end of the spike across a gap.

12. (previously presented) A medical valve according to claim 2, wherein a ring-shaped projection, which projects radially inwardly and is placed in abutment with the top end portion of the spike, is formed to extend around approximately the entire circumference of an inner surface of the top portion of the elastic seal.

13. (previously presented) A medical valve according to claim 2, wherein the elastic seal except the openable/closable portion and the bottom end portion has a bellows-shaped shrinkable portion.

14. (previously presented) A medical valve according to claim 2, wherein the top end surface of the housing and the top end

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surface of the elastic seal are made substantially flush with each other.